

In the Specification:

Page 1, after the "BACKGROUND OF INVENTION", please add --This application <sup>is a continuation</sup> ~~claims the benefit~~ <sup>of abandoned</sup> of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/592,712, filed January 26, 1996.

Remarks

The subject application filed pursuant to 37 CFR 1.53(b), claims the benefit of the filing date of U.S. Serial No. 08/592,712 filed January 26, 1996, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 120.

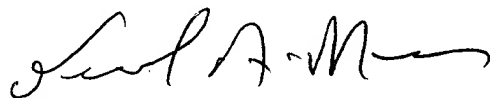
The subject application is filed in response to the Requirement for Information Re Petition Under 37 CFR 1.48(a) mailed December 23, 1996 in application 08/592,712. A petition for a one month extension of time up to and including March 24, 1997 (March 23, 1997 being a Sunday) is being filed on even date in application 08/592,712.

Small entity status was established in application 08/592,712 and was acknowledged in the concluding paragraph of the December 23, 1996 Requirement for Information Re Petition Under 37 CFR 1.48(a). A copy of the Verified Statement Claiming Small Entity Status - Small Business Concern is enclosed herewith. Small entity status is thus properly invoked in the present application. 37 CFR 1.28(a)

Respectfully submitted,

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